



# Articles & Features

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## Tobacco Policy Authorizes Use in Designated Areas Only

By Kevin L. McIver — Public Affairs Officer

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. — The Martinsburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center recently revised its Tobacco Policy that restricts smoking or chewing of tobacco to designated areas only. This policy applies to all patients, visitors, and staff on the campus, including tenant organizations and contractors.

“With the impact that smoking has on one’s health, it is important to balance smokers’ needs with those of non-smokers,” said Medical Center Director Ann R. Brown, “so we revised the policy to restrict tobacco use to designated areas that will not impact non-tobacco users.”

Brown noted that it is important to ensure everyone is aware of the policy, since it applies to all persons on campus grounds, so the MVAMC has published the memorandum online and posted information around campus.

Although VA Police will begin enforcing the tobacco policy, education begins with medical center supervisors who are responsible for informing their staff about the policy.

“Even Human Resources has a role that includes briefing new employees during orientation,” added Brown, “as does our Contracting Office who must convey it to contractors.”

For more information, including a list of the designated tobacco use areas, see the Medical Center Tobacco Policy at [http://vaww.martinsburg.med.va.gov/MCM/001\\_MCM/MCM\\_001-16.doc](http://vaww.martinsburg.med.va.gov/MCM/001_MCM/MCM_001-16.doc).



*Left:* Just one of the many “No Smoking” signs around campus. Recently, the Martinsburg VA Medical Center revised the tobacco policy restricting smoking and chewing of tobacco to designated smoking areas or shelters like seen above. *Photo:* VA / Kevin McIver

Additionally, the campus map of designated smoking areas and shelters can be found at:

[http://vaww.martinsburg.med.va.gov/MCM/001\\_MCM/MCM\\_016-Att\\_a.pdf](http://vaww.martinsburg.med.va.gov/MCM/001_MCM/MCM_016-Att_a.pdf).